

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF RICHLAND)
IN THE MATTER OF:)
COMPLAINT C2012-113)
State Ethics Commission,)
Complainant;)
vs.)
Eddie J. Nelson,)
Respondent.)
_____)

BEFORE THE STATE ETHICS COMMISSION

STATE ETHICS
COMMISSION

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DECISION AND ORDER

This matter comes before the State Ethics Commission by virtue of a complaint filed by the Commission on April 4, 2012. On May 16, 2012, pursuant to S. C. Code Ann. § 8-13-320(10)(i)(Supp. 2011), the State Ethics Commission reviewed the above-captioned complaint charging the Respondent, Eddie J. Nelson, with a violation of Section 8-13-1110 and probable cause was found.

Present at the hearing on July 18, 2012 were Commission Members Phillip Florence, Jr., Chair, Edward E. Duryea, and George Carlton Manley. Respondent was not present, but was duly noticed. Complainant was represented by Cathy L. Hazelwood, General Counsel.

FINDINGS OF FACTS

Having carefully reviewed the evidence presented, the Commission finds as fact

1. The Respondent, Eddie J. Nelson, is the chief procurement officer of Fairfield County School District and a member of LLR's Funeral Services Board and he is required to file an annual Statement of Economic Interests form (SEI) prior to April 15th of each year.

2. Fairfield County School District returned its 2010 Statement of Economic Interests entity list, which showed Respondent as chief procurement official. In addition, LLR's Funeral Services Board returned its 2010 Statement of Economic Interests entity list, which showed Respondent as a board member.

3. On April 10, 2012 a Commission investigator left a message at Respondent's listed telephone concerning the late SEI report and the penalties accruing.

4. On April 12, 2012 Respondent filed the 2010 SEI and on June 5, 2012 he paid the \$1000.00 late filing penalty.

CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

Based upon the Findings of Fact, the Commission concludes, as a matter of law:

1. During all times relevant, the Respondent, Eddie J. Nelson, was a public employee, as defined by Section 8-13-100(25) and a public member, as defined by Section 8-13-100(26).

2. The State Ethics Commission has personal and subject matter jurisdiction

3. Sections 8-13-1110 and 8-13-1140 provide that certain public employees shall file a Statement of Economic Interests at the time of assuming the duties of the position and annually thereafter prior to April 15.

4. Section 8-13-320(10)(i) provides in part:

(10) to conduct its investigation, inquiries, and hearings in this manner:

(i) . . . If the Commission finds probable cause to believe that a violation of this chapter has occurred, the Commission may waive further proceedings if the respondent takes action to remedy or correct the alleged violation.

DECISION

Based upon the evidence presented, the filing of the disclosure form and the payment of the late filing penalty, the State Ethics Commission has determined that the Respondent, Eddie J. Nelson, has complied with the disclosure requirements of the Ethics Reform Act of 1991. THEREFORE, in accordance with Section 8-13-320(10)(i), and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, the State Ethics Commission waives further proceedings.

IT IS SO ORDERED THIS 15th DAY OF Aug., 2012.

STATE ETHICS COMMISSION



PHILLIP FLORENCE, JR.
CHAIRMAN

COLUMBIA, SOUTH CAROLINA